Academic-Industry Relationships in Medical Research, Education and Practice

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Thesis

Academic industry relationships (AIRs) are a fundamental part of all aspects of academic medicine in the United States. These relationships are not universally bad or good. They have both risks and benefits. The challenge is to enact new policies and procedures related to the disclosure and management of these relationships such that the benefits are achieved and the risks are limited or eliminated. Failure to do so could have dire consequences for the future of medicine.
Background: Definition of AIRs

Academic-Industry Relationships (AIRs):
Arrangements in which academic scientists, administrators and institutions carry out research or provide intellectual property in return for considerations of various types

Institutional Academic Industry Relationships (IAIRs):
Arrangements when academic institutions, or any of their senior officials, have a financial relationship with or a financial interest in a public or private company
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of Faculty Researchers with relationships

- Consultants last 3 yrs: 60%
- Research related gifts last 3 yrs: 43%
- Research funding from industry: 28%
- Own equity in firm related to area of expertise: 9%
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of IRB Members with relationships

- Research funding: 26%
- Pay-Attend Meetings: 17%
- Consultant: 14%
- Speakers bureau: 14%
- Scientific advisory board: 10%
- Support for students: 7%
- Officer/executive: 2%
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of IRB Chairs with relationships

- Research funding: 29%
- Pay-Attend Meetings: 17%
- Consultant: 17%
- Speakers bureau: 12%
- Scientific advisory board: 17%
- Support for students: 7%
- Officer/executive: 1%
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of Department Chairs with Relationships

- Honoraria-Speaking: 28%
- Paid Consultant: 27%
- Advisory board: 27%
- Research funding: 21%
- CME speaker: 19%
- Speakers bureau: 14%
- Subsidized travel: 16%
- Founder of company: 9%
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of Clinical Departments receiving...

- Support for CME: 65%
- Food & Beverage: 51%
- Support for residents: 37%
- Support for dept seminars: 36%
- Support for travel: 30%
- Unrestricted funds: 1%
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage of Physicians with relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug samples</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Beverage</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement meetings</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting payments</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers bureaus</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory boards</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments for enroll patients</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AIRs are a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise...

Percentage with any AIR

- Faculty Researchers: 79%
- IRB Members: 36%
- IRB Chairs: 43%
- Dept. Chairs: 60%
- Physicians: 94%
Relationships have benefits...

- Funding to support research
- Increased academic productivity
- Increased commercial productivity
- Increased access to resources
- Opportunity to participate in application of research
- Offset wage differential between industrial and non-industrial sectors that will assist in recruitment and retention of scientists and administrators
Relationships with departments have benefits
(% of department chairs reporting that relationships with industry provide the following)

- 51% ability to provide educational offering
- 45% bring in industry grants
- 28% department financial status
- 20% retain faculty
- 20% recruit new faculty
Relationships have risks…..

- Secrecy in science
  - Delays, Denials and Trade Secrecy
- Shifting focus of science away from basic research
  - More likely to work on projects that have commercial potential
- Bias in research
  - Pro-industry results
- Increased management and negotiation costs
- Perception of being “bought out”
- Risks to patient safety
The challenge is to disclose and manage relationships

- **Disclosure**
  - Annual disclosure is the norm in academia
  - Disclosure in publications and presentations
- **Review disclosures in context of established institutional policies and procedures**
- **Ban some relationships (but not all)**
  - PI with equity in clinical trials
  - Gifts to individual scientists and physicians
- **Aggressively manage relationships in accordance with policy**
  - Establish monitoring boards
  - Divestiture
- **Ignore and Pray**
Failure to do so could have dire consequences for the future of the life science enterprise.

- Scandals
- Compromise of key values
- Human subjects concerns
- Increased governmental regulation
- Loss of star researchers
- Loss of public support for academic science
References/Key Works


